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AUG 17 2005

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Nicolaas van der Blom	:	
Application No. 10/635,433	:	ON PETITION
Filed: August 7, 2003	:	
For: Valve Connector	:	

This is in response to the communication submitted on August 24, 2004, which is being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.53(e), requesting that the above-identified application be accorded a filing date of August 7, 2003. The matter was recently forwarded to the Office of Petitions for a decision on the merits. The Office apologizes for any inconvenience to applicant.

On August 7, 2003, applicant deposited the above-identified application. On June 24, 2004, the Office mailed a Notice of Incomplete Nonprovisional Application (Notice), stating, *inter alia*, that the application was deposited without drawings and that the filing date would be the date of receipt of the drawings.

In response, on August 24, 2004, applicant submitted, *inter alia*, a copy of the Notice and applicant's returned, date-stamped postcard receipt acknowledging receipt of 15 sheets of drawings in the USPTO on August 7, 2003. Additionally, applicant submitted 15 sheets of drawings and a \$130.00 petition fee with the present petition.

Upon review of the record, the 15 sheets of drawings, deposited on August 7, 2003, have not been located among the application papers. However, the evidence is convincing that the application papers deposited on August 7, 2003, included 15 sheets of drawings, which were subsequently misplaced in the USPTO. Therefore, the application, including the 15 sheets of drawings, was complete on filing and will be granted a filing date of August 7, 2003.

Accordingly, the petition is granted.

The requirement for drawings set forth in the Notice of Incomplete Nonprovisional Application was sent in error and is hereby vacated. In view of the above, the \$130.00 petition fee is unnecessary and is refundable. Applicant may request a refund of the \$130.00 petition fee by writing to the following address:

Mail Stop 16
Director of the US Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

A copy of this decision should accompany applicant's request.

The Office of Initial Patent Examination is directed **to accord the above-identified application a filing date of August 7, 2003**, using the 15 sheets of drawings submitted on August 24, 2004, as part of the original disclosure, and to mail a filing receipt.

Any inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

Christina Tartera Donnell

Christina Tartera Donnell
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions